

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please replace the claims with the amended claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A skin treatment composition comprising an extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* in a liposome delivery system [.] wherein the extract comprises 1.5 mg of berberine alkaloid per ml of extract.
2. (Amended) A skin treatment composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* is present in a concentration of from 5% to 20% by weight of the total composition.
3. (Original) A skin treatment composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* is present in a concentration of 10% by weight of the total composition.
4. (Withdrawn) A process for obtaining an extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* comprising the steps of:
  - (a) applying heat and pressure to a mixture of water, alcohol and crude dried *Mahonia aquifolium*;
  - (b) stirring the mixture;
  - (c) processing the mixture at a speed of about 3000rpm for about three hours;
  - (d) allowing the mixture to cool under pressure for at least 24 hours;
  - (e) repeating the last two steps at least twice more;
  - (f) releasing the pressure;
  - (g) placing the mixture under vacuum with heating and mixing to reduce and remove the alcohol and water to obtain a mixture of approximately 6% by volume; and
  - (h) filtering the resulting mixture to obtain the extract of *Mahonia aquifolium*.
5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein in step (a) the mixture is heated to a temperature of not higher than 50°C.
6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein in step (a) the mixture is heated to a temperature of 40°C.
7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein the pressure is in a range of about 3 to 6 psi.

8. (Withdrawn)      An extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* obtained by the process of claim 4.
9. (Withdrawn)      Method of treating psoriasis, eczema and other dry skin conditions by applying the skin treatment composition of claim 1.